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ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-14WASHINGTON POST
28 September 1983

Embassy in Moscow Heard Reagan

The Voice of America, which took the unusual step of broadcasting President Reagan's radio speech directly to the Soviet Union last Saturday, announced yesterday that the U.S. Embassy in Moscow was able to hear the English version and that the live Russian translation apparently could be heard within 15 miles of Moscow.

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson, director of the VOA, said that there was immediate reaction to the speech by Soviet news organizations, including a report on the Sunday-night prime-time news program Vremya.

Tomlinson said that the Soviets

attacked the VOA Monday by charging in Izvestia, the government newspaper, that VOA Deputy Director Melvin Levitsky was a CIA agent while serving in the Soviet Union in 1970. Levitsky denies the charge.

The immediacy of the reaction, unusually prompt... and... strident, leads us to believe that a large number of people heard this throughout the country, so they felt they had to come back with an unusually fast response," Tomlinson said.

He estimated 30 million Soviets heard the speech, which was broadcast first in Russian, then English.